

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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R 171449Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1776
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION MTN GENEVA
USMISSION OECD PARIS

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EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: ECIN, ETRD, EFTA, UA
SUBJ: EFTA SUMMIT MEETING IN VIENNA

REF: VIENNA 2204

1. SUMMARY: EFTA SUMMIT CONFEREES AGREED ON CONTINUED NEED
FOR ORGANIZATION IN PROMOTING ECONOMIC GROWTH AND COOPERATION.
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GREEN LIGHT GIVEN TO STARTING FREE TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WITH
SPAIN, GREECE AND TURKEY AND TO PORTUGAL'S DECISION TO
SEEK EC MEMBERSHIP.END SUMMARY.

2. AT INVITATION OF AUSTRIAN CHANCELLOR BRUNO KREISKY,
LEADERS OF EFTA MEMBER STATES MET IN VIENNA MAY 13
TO DISCUSS CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION AND FUTURE ROLE

OF THE ORGANIZATION AFTER DISMANTLING OF FINAL INDUSTRIAL TRADE BARRIERS BETWEEN EC AND EFTA ON JULY 1. ALL STATES REPRESENTED BY CHIEFS OF GOVERNMENT EXCEPT SWITZERLAND AND ICELAND WHOSE DELEGATIONS WERE AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL. PARTICIPANTS APPROVED FINAL COMMUNIQUE AND TEN-POINT STATEMENT OUTLINING OBJECTIVES OF FUTURE EFTA ACTIVITIES AND EMPHASIZING NEED FOR CLOSER COOPERATION BETWEEN MEMBERS TO ACHIEVE ECONOMIC GROWTH, FULL EMPLOYMENT, -AND MONETARY STABILITY. KREISKY NOTED TO PRESS AFTERWARDS THAT THESE WERE SAME GOALS AGREED UPON AT LONDON SUMMIT. EFTA ORGANIZATION WILL CONTINUE SERVING AS VEHICLE FOR ECONOMIC CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN MEMBERS.

3. IN ESSENCE, CONFERENCE AGREED THAT MEMBER COUNTRIES WOULD:

- (A) CONTINUE TO SUPPORT FURTHER LIBERALIZATION OF WORLD TRADE BY COOPERATING TOWARDS EARLY COMPLETION OF GATT MTN ROUND AND EXTENSION OF ECD TRADE PLEDGE;
 - (B) NEGOTIATE WITH EC FOR SIMPLIFICATION OF ORIGIN RULES AND IMPROVEMENT OF CUSTOS PROCEDURES, INCLUSION IN FREE TRADE SYSTEM OF CERTAIN PROCESSED FOODS, AND FACILITATION OF TRADE IN FISH AND FISH PRODUCTS;
 - (C) NEGOTIATE GATT-COMPATIBLE FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS WITH COUNTRIES AIMING AT EC MEMBERSHIP (SPAIN, GREECE, TURKEY);
 - (D) FIND WAYS AND MEANS TO INCREASE ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH YUGOSLAVIA WHIHI DESIRES CLOSER TIES WITH EFTA;
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- (E) CONCUR IN PORTUGAL'S DECISION TO SEEK EC MEMBERSHIP;
- (F) SUPPORT EFFORTS TO EXPAND AND INTENSIFY TRADE WITH EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES; AND
- (G) PARTICIPATE IN THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE AND IN PRACTICAL MEASURES FOR IMPROVING THE ECONOMIC SITUATION OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

4. FULL TEXT OF SUMMIT DOCUMENTS REPORTED BY FBIS.

5. COMMENT: SUMMIT CONFERENCE WAS BRANCHCHILD OF KREISKY WHO SAW IT AS MEANS OF KEEPING HIMSELF, AUSTRIA AND OTHER EFTA MEMBERS IN WESTERN ECONOMIC MAINSTREAM WHICH HE RECOGNIZES AS DOMINATED BY US, EC, AND JAPAN. ALTHOUGH PREMATURE TO GIVE FULL ASSESSMENT OF EFTA SUMMIT, IT FAILED TO AROUSE MUCH ENTHUSIASM LOCALLY. ONE RESIGNED COMMENT HEARD HERE WS THAT EVEN TOGETHER, EFTA COUNTRIES ARE TOO SMALL TO EXERT SIGNIFICANT INFLUENCE ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SCENE.MEEHAN

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